

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 RSR-01

/194 W

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P R 061300Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5530

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

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E. O. 11652: DECON 06AUG74

TAGS: PFOR, OCAM, MA

SUBJ: MALAGASY REPUBLIC WITHDRAWAL FROM OCAM

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONMIN RATSIRAKA ANNOUNCED MADAGASCAR'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM OCAM IN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING RETURN FROM JAPAN, CANADA, AND US. REASONS FOR TIMING OF DECISION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF IT NOT CLEAR, BUT IT NOT UNREASONABLE TO CONJECTURE THAT FRENCH HARD LINE ON FUTURE FRENCH AID WAS DETERMINING FACTOR AND GOMR CHOSE OCCASION OF FONMIN'S RETURN TO DRAMATIZE FURTHER MADAGASCAR'S LOOSENING OF TIES WITH SPECIFICALLY FRANCOPHONE WORLD AND DIVERSIFICATION OF ITS FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WE CAN DRAW CONCLUSION THAT MADAGASCAR WILL HENCEFORTH DEFINITELY STAND AGAINST REVERSE PREFERENCES. END SUMMARY.

1. AS DEPT AND INFO ADDRESSEES PROBABLY AWARE FROM PRESS REPORTS, MALAGASY FONMIN DIDIER RATSIRAKA MADE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MALAGASY REPUBLIC'S WITHDRAWAL FROM OCAM AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 4. OCCASION WAS RATSIRAKA'S RETURN FROM MONTH-LONG SERIES OF VISITS TO JAPAN, CANADA, AND U.S. DURING PARIS LAYOVER ON RETURN FROM US, RATSIRAKA HAD ALSO MADE WHAT IS OFFICIALLY REPORTED HERE AS JUST "COURTESY CALL" ON FRENCH FONMIN JOBERT.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN EARLIER SIGNALS OF MALAGASY LOSS OF INTEREST IN OCAM. AT LAST OCAM FONMIN AND CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS IN MAURITIUS, FONMIN SENT DIRECTOR MULTILATERAL RELATIONS TO REPRESENT HIM, AND HEAD OF GOVT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REPRESENTED BY MIN TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT (OFFICIALLY NUMBER TWO IN PRESENT HIERARCHY).

3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE CARRIED OUT ENTIRELY IN MALAGASY LANGUAGE (FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DETERMINATION TO DEMONSTRATE LOOSENING TIES WITH FRANCE), RATSIRAKA DID NOT ATTACK OCAM AS SUCH, BUT BASED MALAGASY REPUBLIC'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW ON OPINION THAT ORGANIZATION HAS ALREADY SERIOUSLY DISINTEGRATED, AS EVIDENCED BY DECISIONS OF CAMEROON, MAURITANIA, AND OTHERS TO ABANDON ORGANIZATION. MINISTRY HAD PROPOSED MALAGASY WITHDRAWAL TO GOVT A WHILE AGO BUT TIME NOT RPT NOT RIPE UNTIL NOW, HE SAID. GOMR ACTIVITIES IN INTRA-AFRICAN SPHERE HENCEFORTH TO BE CONCENTRATED ON OAU.

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4. DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE JUST WHAT WENT INTO DECISION TO ANNOUNCE WITHDRAWAL LAST SATURDAY. IT IS POSSIBLE TO SPECULATE THAT, IN VIEW APPARENT FRENCH HARD LINE REGARDING FUTURE FRENCH ASSISTANCE, AS REPORTED EMBASSY PARIS, FOREIGN MINISTER CHOSE MOMENT OF RETURN FROM JAPAN AND US TO DRAMATIZE FURTHER MADAGASCAR'S DETERMINATION TO DIVERSIFY ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND LOOSEN TIES WITH FRANCE AND FRENCH-INFLUENCED ORGANIZATIONS. IT WAS QUITE EVIDENT TO THOSE WHO OBSERVED OFFICIAL MALAGASY GREETING PARTY AT AIRPORT AUGUST 4

THAT FINAL DECISION WAS TAKEN IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING EVENING
AUGUST 3 AND MESSAGE TO THAT EFFECT RELAYED TO RATSIRAKA BY HEAD OF
GOVT'S NUMBER TWO ADVISOR (MAJOR HUBERT ANDRIANASOLO) BETWEEN FONMIN'S

DESCENT FROM AIRPLANE AND PRESS CONFERENCE FEW MINUTES LATER IN VIP
LOUNGE. UNFORTUNATELY SOME FRENCH MAY INTERPRET TIMING OF ANNOUNCE-
MENT JUST AFTER RETURN FROM WASH AS SIGN OF DIRECT USG INTERVENTION.

5. COMMENT: IF ANY FURTHER ASSURANCE WERE NEEDED, MALAGASY WITH-
DRAWAL FROM OCAM SHOULD MEAN MADAGASCAR'S OPPOSITION TO CONTINUATION
REVERSE PREFERENCES. IN THIS SENSE, WITHDRAWAL SERVES US INTERESTS.

MENDENHALL

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